Protection of historical monuments in Maharashtra

*514. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra for financial assistance for the protection of historical monuments there;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the location-wise details of each project; and

(c) what is the status of these proposals and the funds allocated for these monuments during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India has no scheme for grant of financial assistance to State Governments for protection of historical monuments and has not received any such proposal from the Government of Maharashtra.

There is a Scheme for financial assistance for preservation of monuments less than 100 years old. Only registered societies/public trusts are eligible for the assistance. State Governments/Union Territories/local authorities are not entitled for assistance under this scheme.

Central control over rivers and ground water

*515. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Second Administrative Reforms Commission has suggested framing of radical national law to centralize control over rivers and ground water in order to address emerging conflicts;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any serious efforts have been made by Government to find out solution of Cauvery water dispute so that conflicts between the people of States could be avoided and matter does not become political; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and position taken by both the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) In chapter 5 of its Seventh Report, containing water related issues, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended that in order to develop, conserve, utilize and manage water on the basis of a framework that incorporates long term perspectives, a national water law should be enacted.

The Report does not mention any specific suggestion about "framing of radical national law to centralize control over river and ground water in order to address the emerging conflicts".

(c) and (d) The dispute relating to Cauvery water among the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry was referred to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) constituted on 2nd June 1990 under the Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act 1956. The Tribunal passed an Interim Order on 25th June, 1991 which was published in the official gazette by the Government of India under Section 6(1) of the ISRWD Act, 1956

on 10th December, 1991. The said order, therefore, is now binding on the party States and is to be given effect to by them.

Further, the tribunal has submitted the report and decision under section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. The party States and the Central Government have sought clarification/ guidance from the tribunal under section 5(3) of the Act. The party States have also filed SLP against aforesaid decision of CWDT before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Roadmap on broad frame work of GST

*516. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on VAT for setting up of a model and roadmap on Broad Framework of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has finalized its report, till date;

(b) if so, by when the final report of the Empowered Committee on VAT is likely to be submitted to Government; and

(c) how much time Government is likley to take to examine/implement the recommendations made by the Committee, throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Government has announced its intention to introduce Goods and Services Tax (GST) with effect from 01 April, 2010. The design and roadmap for introduction of GST has to be finalized in consultation with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC). In May 2007, the EC had set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising officials of the Central Government and State Governments to study the various models of GST existing globally and any other relevant material available on the subject. The JWG had submitted its report to EC in November, 2007. The Report submitted by JWG is still being deliberated within the EC and its recommendations on the same have not yet been finalized. The Government of India would be in a position to examine the recommendations made by the EC only after the report and the views of the EC are communicated to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Reduction of Government stake in banks

†*517 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission, has advised Government to reduce its present stake in the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the average stake of Government in banks at present and the percentage stake recommended by the abovesaid Committee; and

(c) the benefits expected as a result of reduction of Government stake?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi